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REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended. Claim 8 has been added. Claims 1, 3-4, and 6-8 remain pending. Reconsideration and reexamination of the application, as amended are requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3, 4, 6 and 7 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Yamamoto (JP 09126264A).

Claim 1 requires a fan-shaped oil chamber formed in the housing. A vane divides the oil chamber into two chambers. A shaft rotatably fastened to the housing is fixed to a base part of the vane such that the vane extends only in one direction away from the base part. A seal part is comprised of a pair of washers and a sealing member. The washers are sandwiched between an inner face of the housing and the base part of the vane. The sealing member is provided to at least portions of three edges of the vane to seal between the vane and the inner face of the housing. The sealing member has ends with the ends facing the base part of the sealing member and contacting the edge peripheries of the washers.

Yamamoto does not disclose a fan-shaped oil chamber such that the vane has a base part wherein the vane extends only in one direction away from the base part. Further, Yamamoto does not disclose a seal part with washers having edge peripheries and a sealing member provided to at least three edges of the vane and having ends facing the base part of the vane and contacting the edge peripheries of the washers. Therefore, Yamamoto does not anticipate the rotary damper of claim 1. Likewise, Yamamoto does not anticipate the rotary damper of the claims which depend from claim 1.

Claim 8 has been added. Claim 8 finds basis in page 8, line 1 to page 9, line 19 of the specification. For similar reasons, as discussed above, claim 8 is patentable. In this regard, it is pointed out that claim 8 includes a sealing means element.

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In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and reexamination are requested. Allowance of claims 1, 3-4, and 6-8 at an early date is solicited. Any questions regarding this communication can be directed to the undersigned attorney, Curtis B. Hamre, Reg. No. 29,165 at (612) 455-3802.



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Respectfully submitted,

HAMRE, SCHUMANN, MUELLER &
LARSON, P.C.
P.O. Box 2902
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0902
(612) 455-3800

By: Curtis B. Hamre
Curtis B. Hamre
Reg. No. 29,165
CBH/lad